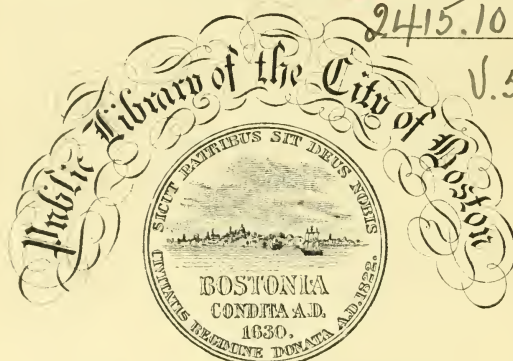




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LETTERS
ON THE
Claims of the College of Arms
IN LANCASHIRE,
IN THE TIME OF
JAMES THE FIRST:

BY
LEONARD SMETHLEY AND RANDLE HOLME,
DEPUTY HERALDS.

EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES, BY
THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A.,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

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INTRODUCTION.¹

LEONARD SMEDLEY or Smethley, as he indifferently spelt his name, although mentioned in historic page, was a man clearly "ignoble, and born to be forgot." The surname no longer exists in Manchester, although it still flourishes as it did in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the adjoining Parish of Bolton-le-Moors. In the year 1589 "Smethley Mill" occurs in Chetham, a township of Manchester, "Smedley Hall" was afterwards a residence of a cadet of the Chethams, and "Smedley-lane" is still a thoroughfare there. Here we may suppose the family lived, as on the 27 January 1593 John Smethley and Alice Gwillim² were married at the Collegiate Church, and although the baptism of Leonard Smethley has not been found, nor his marriage, yet on the 5 July 1621 his daughter Mary, and on the 19 September 1624 his daughter Elizabeth, were baptized there.

¹ The Letters of Smedley and Holme, here printed, are from *Ashm. MS.*, 836, f. 551, Bodl. Lib.

² It is not improbable that this lady was a connexion of John Gwillim, Rouge-Croix, a man of Welsh extraction and the publisher, perhaps the author, of the excellent *Display of Heraldry*. Gwillim was the friend of Randal Holme, and through the influence of Holme, Smedley got his heraldic appointment in Manchester. Gwillim died in 1621.

On the 9 October 1632 "Anne, widow of Leonard Smedley, of Manchester, deceased," was buried, and his daughter Mary was married at the same church to Charles, son of Richard Bostock, before the year 1642.³

There is no pedigree of the family in the College of Arms, but it is worthy of note that different armorial bearings have been granted to, or at least borne by, two distinct families of Smedley and Smethley — the former bearing, *Ermine, a chevron lozengy, azure and or*, and the latter, *Gules, two bars between nine martlets argent, four, three, and two*.

Leonard Smedley was an "Arms Painter and Hearse man," and is also styled a "Deputy Herald." He was probably a member of the Company of Painter-Stainers, an old fraternity who were closely connected with heraldry. Arms Painters, from an early period, were an important body, and it has been said "that they gained whatever they desired."⁴ They made banners, pennons, and standards, and emblazoned them with Armorial devices and some of their productions were "so goodly, that it was a marvel to behold them."⁵ The names of several of these local Artists or deputy Heralds occur in the north of England. They were the agents of the College of Arms, and sometimes the chiefs treated their subordinates confidentially, as appears from Smedley's let-

³ I am indebted to Mr. John Owen, a zealous antiquary, for these extracts from the Collegiate Church Registers.

⁴ Mills' *Hist. of Chivalry*, vol i, p. 21, 8vo, 1826.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

ters to St. George, and at other times with more haughtiness than was agreeable, and acrimonious disputes were the inevitable consequence. By one Herald their authority was ignored and by another unduly magnified. On the 19 July 1634 Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel and Earl Marshall of England, visited Chester, and it might have been supposed that he would hardly have known of the existence of such a person as Randal Holme, the friend and correspondent of Smedley. The Earl Marshall, however, summoned his delegate, or "the Deputy Herald," as Holme is styled, by a warrant. The Deputy was at that time Mayor of the city of Chester, and immediately attended upon the Earl with the insignia of his office. "Mr. Mayor," said the Earl Marshall, "I sent for you to tell you your offence you have committed in not giving your attendance, as you ought, and now do you come with your authority" ? and suddenly taking "the staff" out of the Mayor's hands, laid it (not on his shoulders, but) "in the window [seat] saying, 'I will teach you to know yourself, and attend Peers of the realm. Though I care not for your observances, yet because you want manners, I shall teach you some, and you shall further hear from me. I would have you to know, I have power to commit you, to teach you to know yourself and me, and give better attendance.'" After this brisk salutation and impeachment Randal Holme, the Deputy Herald who describes the interview, was glad to pay the fees demanded by the Earl Marshall's officers,⁶ so that his de-

⁶ Moule's *Biblioth. Herald*, p. 240.

ficiencies in point of breeding were not censured in his Civil office, but in his official capacity as a member of the Court of Chivalry.

We know nothing of Smedley's supporters or friends, except that Randal Holme recommended him to the college and thought favourably of him; but his independent bearing was not likely to be popular with country gentlemen, who ventured to enquire by what authority they were called upon to pay fees by compulsion, the origin of which was unknown to them, and the payment of which they had been informed was not obligatory. "Every feudal lord had assumed the right of chusing his own armorial distinctions. They were worn by all his family, and were hereditary. It was also in his power to grant arms to knights and squires as marks of honour for military merit; and from all these causes armorial distinctions represented the feudalism, the gentry, and the chivalry of Europe. One knight could not give more deadly offence to another than by assuming his armorial bearings without his permission, and many a lance was broken to punish such insolence. . . . The business of Heralds was enlarged, from that of being mere messengers between hostile Princes, into a court for the arranging of Armorial honours, and disputes regarding arms and cognizances were settled by heralds and not by battle."⁷

In the year 1618 the commissioners for executing the office of Earl Marshall published *A regulation of fees*

⁷ Mills' *Hist. of Chivalry*, vol. i., c. iii., p. 87.

appointed to be paid by all degrees to the officers of Arms for Registering their Funeral Certificates;⁸ and there was also printed, *An order of the Commissioners for the Office of the Earl Marshall respecting Tradesmen intermeddling with the Marshalling of Arms*.⁹ The old and recognised aristocratic families enjoyed their rank and hereditary wealth and felt their position to be secure; but the secondary or middle class families in Manchester surrounded by the Hollands and Traffords, the Radcliffes and Asshetons, and other historical houses, and some of them bearing their names and traditionally connected with them, emulated the habits and proceedings of their distinguished representatives, and regarded the imposing pageantry of an Heraldic Funeral as the standard of birth and ancestry, and the best external proof of lineage that could be supplied. But Smedley, the Manchester Deputy Herald, would not allow these families to be even the pigmy descendants of Chevaliers, Knights, and Patriotic men. He was envious of the rising fortunes of some of the mercantile families, especially of those who had not, as Bacon said, "advanced by degrees, but suddenly and *per saltum*, and who had failed to preserve all inferior officers in their full rights and pre-eminences of their places."¹⁰ He had been instructed, it may be, to prevent, as far as he could, a confusion of ranks and to maintain that in a great aristocratic country like England, social

⁸ Moule's *Biblioth. Herald.*, p. 84.

⁹ *Ibid.* p. 185.

¹⁰ *Essay* xli. on Usury.

grades and privileges were necessary. And this might be admitted even by the men who, like diamonds, "called from themselves the ray that made them shine," but who still flattered themselves that they were descended from ancestors who had lived —

"In olden times ere Heralds yet enroll'd
The bleeding ruby in a field of gold,
Or infant language pain'd the tender ear
With fess, bend, argent, cheveron or saltier."¹¹

But it is equally clear that many of the old heraldic families objected to pay the fees demanded by the College of Arms for funeral certificates, which involved a genealogical record of the family of the deceased, together with other privileges. They pleaded for procrastination, but probably the delay sought was equivalent to postponing the enquiry indefinitely, or even of quashing the claim altogether. This was not a pleasant augury for the success of the applicant. The fact was many individuals placed no value on their hereditary distinctions, on the privilege of bearing arms, or on their family history. Their concurrence had not been obtained but rather ignored, and hardly an appeal allowed to any authority. Smedley presented himself to the "enemy," for such he seems to have regarded some of the leading families around him who did not comply with his demands, with something like a consistent front, and spared no pains in effecting his object, but still the fees did not come. There was a real grievance between him and his clients,

¹¹ Cawthorn.

or rather those whom he was led to regard as such, but he laid it down as an heraldic axiom that he who claimed the right could not be mistaken in claiming it, and that they who resisted were disentitled to forbearance or even to common courtesy.

He unduly strained his delegated authority, and if he did not intentionally misstate any fact, or make any illegal demand, he seems to have boldly assumed something which required proof. There was much dissatisfaction and eager agitation on both sides, as we learn from these graphic letters, and whilst the deputy urged the claims of the Heralds, many of the Lancashire gentry repudiated both the claimants and the claims as an officious interference with their personal and domestic concerns and as a harsh restriction upon their social liberty.

Sir Philip Sidney, Spenser and Shakspeare had well supported and vindicated the claims of chivalry in the late reign, but a great change in manners and in the social state of society was taking place at this time and chivalry was on the decline ; but still, in the narrow and limited sense of the word, the title of "gentleman" was only allowed to persons born in a certain class, and who were gentle in blood rather than in character. The ordinary qualifications of a gentleman were supposed to be good descent, the practice of arms, skill at tournaments and jousts, hawking and hunting, the cultivation of music, and a careful attention to dress. These were deemed the distinguishing accomplishments of a gentleman, whilst gallantry and religion were equally necessary. Educa-

tion at one of the universities and a short residence at one of the Inns of Court completed at this time the required standard. It is obvious that tradesmen, yeomen, and husbandmen, at this period, even if descended, however recently, from what Mills calls "Armigerous families," would neither be expected nor allowed to bear arms at all, as they were either "grocers," that is merchants, or cultivated their own estates, or were tenant farmers, and as such were not supposed to hold any rank in the social scale. Some of them might in Lancashire, with the assistance of the Heralds, have shewn the four quarters of gentility in their coat armour required by the French, and not improbably also the eight heraldic emblasonings demanded by the severer aristocracies of Spain and Germany,¹² but commerce was abhorrent to the haughtiness of the old feudal nobility, and commercial men were out of the pale of the Heralds. As commerce extended itself, wealth increased, and a certain amount of Education was obtained through the grammar schools established after the Reformation in most of the large towns in the north of England, and the sons of the "new men" who had acquired culture, intelligence, and wealth, were conventionally recognized as gentlemen, but the Heralds did not allow the honorable title, and the claim to it was left dubious.

¹² Lord Barrington being once asked by a German prince what rank an esquire held in England, replied, that there was no equivalent for the title in Germany; but that an English esquire was considerably above a German baron, and something below a German prince.

An extensive examination of the wills of the leading mercantile families of Lancashire at this time indicates not only their wealth and high social distinction, but also how eagerly the tradesmen had entered into the leading controversies of the day. They possessed many of the expensive popular controversial writings, and doubtless in Manchester listened regularly to the famous Puritan preachers, to some of whom they were closely allied by blood, and to others by marriage. These men must have had some respectable classical and literary attainments to enable them to prosecute their theological taste, to understand critical arguments, to balance evidence, to draw conclusions, and, in the midst of hot contentions, to adhere calmly and intelligently to the Reformed Faith. And all this was probably done without disturbing their mercantile engagements, souring their tempers, spoiling their manners, or shortening their lives. On the contrary, it doubtless added to their temporal happiness, as it did not involve costly establishments, courtly habits, or fashionable dress, but there was still a hankering after the vanities of the world, and wealthy tradesmen, like Mr. Otho Holland,¹³ Mr. George Clark,¹⁴ and others, were unwilling

¹³ The following corrections and additions may be added to Note 10, p. 8. For "Lime," read Linne, and for "Thomas Cooke Alderson," read Thomas Alderson Cooke. This gentleman died at Peterborough on the 12 December 1854, when New Hall descended to his son Otho Cooke, now of Withycombe house, Exmouth, Devon, esq. The mansion and buildings of New Hall were pulled down in 1872, and the lands laid out for building purposes, reserving rents to Mr. Cooke. There is an interesting account of the hall in the *Manchester Guardian*

to renounce the mark of social superiority implied in the pompous pageantry of an Heraldic funeral, but wished to secure it, however, without the troublesome interposition of Heralds. Few sights could be more dreary or repulsive than these coveted smoky torch-light funerals, designed to render the dead "splendid in ashes, and pompous in the grave." The mode of sepulture at this time was what it had long been in the north of England. The dead body was wrapped in a winding-sheet or shroud of some coarse material and carried on a bier to its mother earth, somewhat precipitately, and not unattended with danger, considering the uncertainty of

of 26 June 1872, where it is recorded that the arms of Holland, carved in stone, had been placed above the entrance to the spacious court yard, with the date 1640, and the initial of the builders J^H M.; but that at the end of the last century, when a larger mansion was added to the old one, the stone containing the arms was removed and placed above the mantel-piece of one of the old rooms, where it remained until the whole fabric was swept away. The shield was charged with, azure, semée de lis, a lion rampant guardant, argent, oppressed with a bend, gules *impaling* or, a fess indented vert, a bend gules. *Crest*, on a wreath, a fox-hound, argent. The house was probably rebuilt by James Holland, gent., whose marriage settlement is dated 7 July 1635, whereby he conveyed Newhall and other lands in Pendleton, in the parish of Eccles, late the inheritance of Otho Holland his father, deceased, to sir Alexander Radclyffe of Ordsall, of the Hon. Order of the Bath, knight, Thomas Prestwich of Holme, esq., Humphrey Chetham of Clayton, esq., and James Chetham of Crumpsall, gent., as trustees, to secure a joyniture for his intended wife Mary, daughter of John Blomfield, late of Redenhall, in the county of Norfolk, esq., deceased. Her jointure was 200*l*. Executed by Alexander Radclyffe and James Chetham. (*Lanc. MSS., ex archiv. Jac. Chetham.*)

¹⁴ See p. 8, *ante*, and *Funeral Certif.*, p. 73.

the signs of death, a few hours after dissolution.¹⁵ It was only in rare cases that the corpse was reverently placed in "a coffin," after the fashion of the Jewish Patriarch's body in Egypt, and in still rarer cases where lead was used, the heathen and revolting practice of cremation having never been adopted in this christian country. The "funeral" rites took place several weeks after the burial of the defunct. There was a grand procession to the church, and a variety of pomp and ceremony, conducted much to their own satisfaction, by the officers of the College of Arms. In the time of Smedley, who was often employed on these occasions, there was prepared a hideous funeral hearse or open car, with a canopy, not unlike a four-post bed, hung with black drapery, with nodding plumes and rich with "the hieroglyphics of nobility," as they were called by Henry Constable, a poet of that age. On this bed, or rather "underneath this sable hearse," was laid the figure of the deceased, dressed in the clothes ordinarily worn by him, and sometimes there was a cast of the face which had been taken in wax after death — representing, by anticipation, one of the famous effigies now to be seen at No. 58, Baker street! This hearse and the recumbent figure were preserved in the church for at least a year, and sometimes for a longer period.¹⁶ In the precincts of the hearse, generally in the private chapel of the deceased, were suspended the grand armorial banner, helmet, spurs and other military weapons

¹⁵ See *Civil and Eccles. State of Lanc.*, 1590, p. 5.

¹⁶ See p. 20.

with which the knight or warrior had gained his doubtful victories over his own brethren or countrymen, or it might be, over his immediate neighbours.

In descriptions of the grand and stately obsequies of Edward, the third earl of Derby, in 1572,¹⁷ Henry Stanley of Bickerstaffe, esq., in 1598,¹⁸ and of sir Ralph Assheton of Middleton, knight, in 1617-18,¹⁹ we have minute particulars of the proceedings. Sir Ralph Assheton was buried on the day after his death, and three weeks elapsed before the ordinary solemnity of a torch-light funeral was held. Preparations had been made on an extensive scale, and the precedence of the various social degrees had been scrupulously arranged by the heralds.²⁰ There was a procession of great extent, varied by bright heraldic colours, but the prevailing costume was "blacks." There were black cloaks for men, mourning gowns for women, mourning cloth for parsons and vicars, mourning weeds for relatives, and black gowns for household servants. "My Ladie y^e Widdow," "the new Lorde," the sons and daughters, Mr. Greenhalgh and his wife, and others, all walked in ceremonious procession, according to seniority of birth, rank, and relationship. The tenants and their wives walked "bearing wands." The master and husher of the Grammar school, and the school boys who had composed and recited their elegiac verses, and lachry-

¹⁷ Collins' *Peerage*, Brydges, vol. iii, pp. 73-79.

¹⁸ *Lanc. Fun. Certif.*, p. 29.

¹⁹ *Lanc. MSS.*, and Assheton's *Journal*, pp. 70, 71, 72-77.

²⁰ Page 28.

mose lamentations, were also placed in the procession — probably as an acknowledgement of their learning and good behaviour, if not of their pedantry and conceit. Two heralds from the College of Arms, London, caparisoned in their surcoats or tabards, and rivalling the lord mayor in dignity and blazonry, and Randal Holme and some of his marvellous “helpers” from Chester, “duly caparisoned,” were also present. Banners, plumes and penons floated in the breeze, and the famous Black Mullet was everywhere visible. The long procession, accompanied by men and boys bearing flambeaux, preceded and followed the hearse which was drawn by four horses, amidst discordant sounds from brass instruments, blaring trumpets, muffled bells, and doubtless from “the vile squeaking of the wry-neck’d fife.” It slowly ascended the hill and, surrounded by troops of eager spectators, entered, on a dreary night in January, the church of St. Leonard of Middleton. Here a long and eloquent funeral oration was delivered by Mr. Edward Assheton, the rector,²¹ from *Psalm* xc. 12, to an overwhelming audience, by candle-light. Many deep shadows and strange floods of light would on that memorable evening be observed in cardinal Langley’s gloomy old pile, and produce an effect at once solemn and suggestive, although, as Randal Holme lamented, “this paltry burning in the night spoiled all”²² the glory of the proceedings. Then followed the grand banquet and the general feastings and potations, which

²¹ See *State Civil and Eccles.*, pp. 42–5, Note.

²² Page 28.

certainly continued for some days and nights,²³ our ancestors considering that these costly spectacles and severe feastings were not only instructive and salutary, but also tended to increase their happiness and promote their longevity.

Then came the funeral certificate, containing a genealogical account of the family, and the fees for the College of Arms, all of which, in this instance at least, were duly recognised, recorded and paid.²⁴

²³ See *State Civil and Eccles.*, p. 6.

²⁴ Canon Raine of York has obligingly furnished me with the various items of expenditure connected with a high class funeral of this period. The inventory was produced in a case of appeal (removed from Chester) in the Exchequer court of York, on the 5 April 1608. The plaintiff was sir Thomas Bold of Bold, in the county of Lancaster, knt., and the defendant Alice, lady Fitton, widow, and an executrix of her husband, sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth, in the county of Chester, knt., president of Munster, who died in London in 1606, and whose corpse was brought for interment to Gawsworth. (See p. 34, Note.)

There had been some family feud, as sir Edward Fitton had been an executor of Richard Bold of Bold, esq., who, passing over the heir presumptive, devised the estates to his natural son sir Thomas, the plaintiff, whilst the defendant, who produced her accounts in court, was Alice, lady Fitton, sole daughter and heiress of John Holcroft of Holcroft, esq., by his wife Dorothy, daughter of sir Richard Bold of Bold, and consequently first cousin (sinister) of sir Thomas, who was himself twice married, but died issueless in 1614, when the legitimate line was restored. Lady Fitton died in 1626.

“Payments (inter alia)

To the parson of St. Dunstons church in fleete streete & the clarkes for openinge the earth & other rightes & duties as if he had beene buried there, iiij^{li}.

For stuffe to dresse the corpes withall and for his paines that dreste it & also for a cheste, 3*l.* 9*s.*

It must be admitted that Mr. Smedley's remuneration for recording the facts and receiving the fees for the Heralds was not extravagant. An allowance of ten per centum for horse-hire, travelling expenses, loss of time, personal services, and occasionally an absence of two or three days from home, especially as the Heralds' charges were far from being inconsiderable, indicates that the financial equilibrium was not well adjusted.

It has been said that a gentleman never forgets himself, controls his temper, and does nothing in excess. I fear Mr. Leonard Smedley was not a gentleman, and Randal

For the hyer of a waggon to carrie downe the dead corpes, 8*l*.

For charges of the men that did attend the corpes, 6*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.

My owne charges downe, my children and servantes, for the charge of the blackes and all my stuffe, 52*l*,

For Double surge for my sonnes children and my sonne Nudegates, 5*l*. 19*s*. 3*d*.

For sarsenit for his anciente & flaggs and the coate armour, 3*l*. 10*s*.

For silke fringe for the furnishing of the same, 20*s*.

For a yard of velvett for the coveringe of the sword and head-peece, 20*s*.

For certeine armes aboute the hearse and in the church, 40*s*.

For gould and silver for the head peece, ancient, coate armor & other flaggs & for the workemanshipp thereof, 20*l*.

To a herauld for settinge forth the funerall fittinge for such a man, 10*l*.

For the funerall dinner, as spices, wyne and fishes, & given to the poore, 3*l*.

For approving my husbände's will at London, 34*s*. 4*d*.

To Thomas Ball of London apothecarie for stuffe which the doctor of phisicke did use & send for the deceadent duringe the tyme of his sickness, 5*l*. 10*s*. 6*d*.

To Sir Matthewe Careie knighte for rent of the house wherein the saide deceadent did dwell, 20*l*."

Holme admits that he was negligent and careless in discharging the duties of his office, and also a man of small means. This was probably felt in the Court of Chivalry, and we find him rather sharply superseded in his deputation by his employers, who seem to have discovered that his appointment had been somewhat unfortunate, his general proceedings being not only distasteful to them, but also to the gentlemen of Lancashire. He was obviously a man of a rough and hasty temper, and like a scurrilous namesake of his,²⁵ wholly devoid of that true refinement which, without limiting its own feelings and opinions, is always considerate of those of others. He seems to have done nothing gracefully. He took a becoming, probably not altogether unselfish, interest in the welfare of the Heralds' College; but although not a perfectionist, surely he ought to have avoided indecent personal bickerings, unseemly remonstrances, and harsh charges of double dealing. Nor was he, perhaps, after all, more or less than a type of his class, for it is even said of his distinguished contemporary, sir William Dethick, the garter, that "he was very unsociable, insolent and tempestuous," and some-

²⁵ The Rev. Jonathan Smedley, M.A., dean of Killala, who wrote whole volumes of Billingsgate against Swift and Pope, and who, drowned in mud, is immortalised in the *Dunciad*:

Next Smedley div'd; slow circles dimpled o'er
The quaking mud, that clos'd and ope'd no more.
All look, all sigh, and call on Smedley lost;
Smedley in vain resounds thro' all the coast.

Book 11. l. 290.

times even knocked his fellow heralds down, if they happened to offend him!²⁶ Smedley's account of his interview with Deodatus Paulet²⁷ is painfully exegetical, and proves that strong language and irritability of temper were not restricted either to the earl marshall, sir William Dethick, or the Manchester herald, but that Wigan also furnished a fitting representative, and that in the ancient and loyal borough "Greek met Greek" with a fearful tug.

These men doubtless rendered themselves highly obnoxious to the leading families of the county, aristocratic, gentle and mercantile, and brought the noble institution of chivalry and the honourable usage of armorial distinctions into disrepute. And it may be admitted that some gentlemen, conspicuous by birth and position, occasionally impaired their dignity and exhibited little of the refinement and courtesy traditionally supposed to be their legitimate inheritance.

Nearly the whole of the proceedings, as described in these letters, amounted to a *scandalum magnatum*, and probably the unseemly antagonism ultimately led to the discontinuance of the demands and exactions, and before the end of the century, although another heraldic visitation was first held, the influence of the earl marshall had disappeared in Lancashire, and the only remnant now left of an old heraldic funeral is the solitary and incongruous hatchment.

²⁶ Noble's *Hist. Coll. of Arms*, p. 201.

²⁷ Page 20.

Smedley's successor in the office of deputy herald was Roger Dodsworth, at that time a young man and living in Lancashire, but cultivating the learned tastes and accumulating the vast stores of information which afterwards rendered him eminent as an historian, although he must never be recognized, like his predecessor, as an ordinary arms-painter, nor like his contemporary Robert Frere of Chester, "a cobblers sonne" and "a contryvor of pedegrees."²⁸ Dodsworth had lost his personal regard for Smedley and did not value his official services, which obviously accounts for the discarded deputy's acrimonious censure of Dodsworth's selfishness and cupidity, and is at once both amusing and characteristic.

F. R. R.

²⁸ Page 30. Thurstan Knowles of Manchester, "Arms-tricker and herald," is named in the years 1624, 25, 26, and was buried 18 October 1631, being described as "of the family of Mr. Roger Dodsworth," but in the register book of burials erroneously called Thomas. (See *Life of Dugdale*, p. 9. Chetham series.) Knowles had probably been Dodsworth's clerk or amanuensis. He married, at the Collegiate church, 9 February 1611-12, Isabel, daughter of Mr. Lawrence Byrom of Salford, and became connected with some of the best of the middle-class families of Lancashire. (See *Ped. of Byrom of Manchester*, Chetham series. and Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1664-5, vol. 84.

LETTERS ON THE CLAIMS OF THE COLLEGE
OF ARMS IN LANCASHIRE IN THE
TIME OF JAMES I.

Mr. LEONARD SMEDLEY to Sir RICHARD S^t GEORGE.

Reight wor^{ppth} Sir,

my humble service rememb^r to yo^r selfe, as alsoe to the whole Office in generall, &c. Desiring to be excused for not writing till now for which I could aledg many reasons, but I hope itt is needles theirfore in as few silables as I can, I will lay downe to yo^r vew, my whole proseedings, the first I demanded fees of, emediately after my coming downe was Mr. Edward Holland of Heaton, for his elder Brother Mr. Richard Holland¹

¹ Richard, son and heir of Edward (Richard, *Dugdale*) Holland of Denton, esq. (descended, according to *Dugdale*, from sir William Holland, knt., fifth brother of Thomas, first earl of Kent, in the reign of Edward III.), by his first wife Jane, daughter of John Carrington of Carrington, in the county of Chester, esq., was born A.D. 1549, being aged 24 in 1573. His wife was Margaret, third daughter and coheirss of sir Robert Langley of Agecroft, knt., by his wife Ceciley, daughter of Edmund Trafford of Trafford, and the widow of John Reddish of Reddish, esq.; she was born in 1538 being of the age of 24 in 1562. Her mother Ceciley became the second wife of her husband's father, Edward Holland of Denton, esq., who ob. 1573. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. Ped.; Flower's *Visitation*, p. 18.) Richard Holland, esq., appears to have settled at Heaton house, in the parish of Prestwich, where his ancestors had inherited lands from the family of Prestwich; and in the year 1580 he was in the commission of the peace, and served the office of high sheriff of the county Palatine in the years of 1573, 1582 and 1596. Before 1573 he was a deputy-lieutenant of Edward, earl of Derby, and took an active part in all the public business of the county, civil and ecclesiastical, during the reign of queen Elizabeth.

He died on the 2nd March 1618-19, without male issue, and was buried at Prest-

esquire, who died the second of March, 1618 without issue male. whose whole demeans he doth posses, but his answer was he would pay none, for the which he gaue me tow reasons. first that he was not his heir, for the lands he did posses his Brother made vnto him by assignement in his lyfe time. Secundly his Daughter Marie whoe married to Mr. Eccleston of the fyle, who was at hir fathers death and is, yet widow, being sole executrix to hir father, was in ioyned by will, to pay all funurall charges, of which he did understand this to be a part she being then absent, in Yorkshire at Ripan with hir sister, whose returne was euerie day expected but was soe slow that I was constrained to stay, vntill the 7th of this month for hir answer, which was this, that within 8. or 10. dayes after Mr. Dampont of Manchester the lawyer² his

wich, as the following entry in the Register Book of Burials shows: "1618 March 3^d. sepult. Richardus Holland de Heaton Armiger; funera solemnizata March 16." His wife was buried with her ancestors in the same church, according to the following record: "1616 Sept. 25 sepult. Margareta Holland uxor Richi Holland de Heaton armig; funera solemnizata Oct. 8." (Booker's *Hist. of Prestwich*.) Although only two daughters are named in the text, Mr. Richard Holland left issue by his wife five daughters and coheirresses, viz.: (1) Mary, married . . . Eccleston of Eccleston, in the Fylde, esq., and was living a widow in 1620; (2) Elizabeth, married Richard Aldbrough of Aldbrough, near Ripon, esq.; (3) Margaret, married William Brereton of Hondford, in the county of Chester, esq., father of sir William, the first baronet; (4) Jane, married Robert Dukenfield of Dukenfield, esq., and had issue twelve children; his second wife was Margery, daughter of Edward Holland of Denton, esq., by whom he had three sons; (5) Frances, married John Preston of the manor and abbey of Furness, esq., M.P., father of sir John the first baronet. (Dugdale's *Visit. Lanc.*, p. 146.)

Richard Holland, esq., was succeeded by his brother and next heir Edward Holland, esq., who died 12 Car. 1., 1637, and whose descendant and ultimate representative, Elizabeth Holland, married sir John Egerton of Wrinehill, bart., ancestor of Thomas, now second earl of Wilton of Heaton house. (See *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, pp. 95, 96, Chetham series.)

Arms borne by Holland at the visitation of Lancashire in 1567; Azure a lion rampant, guardant, between six fleurs-de-lis, argent, over all a bend, gules.

² Sir Humphrey Davenport was the fourth son of William Davenport of Bramhall, in the county of Chester, esq. (descended from the Davenports of Davenport, temp. conquest), and of his wife Margaret, daughter of Richard Assheton of Middleton, esq., and was born about the year 1570. He was a bencher of Gray's inn in 1600, overseer

returne from London she would pay me the whole fees or giue me absolute answer to the contrary, but before she had his aduice, and counsell, she would pay none, his coming down will not be till after Midsummer. 2^d. Mr. Leuesey of Leuese gent.³ dyed in

of the will of his cousin sir John Southworth, knt., in 1595 (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, vol. ii, p. 139; *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, p. 139), and of his cousin Thomas Leigh, of Adlington, esq., 20 November 1600 (*Ib.*, *Notes*, p. 101), and was employed professionally, by his relative Alexander Radcliffe, esq., of Ordsall, in 1599 (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, p. 216). He was frequently consulted by the leading families in South Lancashire, whose confidence he largely enjoyed, in legal matters. He was called to the degree of serjeant at law in 1629, appointed judge of the common pleas and received the honour of knighthood at the same time. On the 16th June 1631, he was made chief baron of the exchequer. In 1638-9 he resided at Sutton, near Macclesfield, and in that year Dorothy lady Legh, daughter of sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, knt., and relict of sir Peter Legh, knt., of Lyme, bequeathed by will "to judge Davenport and his wife, each a ring," and £5 to her godson Humphrey Davenport for a ring. (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, vol. iii, pp. 201, 205.) He was a loyal and devoted subject of Charles I., and, being in favour of the king's prerogative, as it had existed at least from the time of Edward IV., supported the levying of the ship money, and probably on that account was impeached, and deprived in 1642 of his high office. Fuller calls him "a studied lawyer, and an upright person." In a cancelled will of Humphrey Chetham of Turton, esq. (the founder), dated September 26, 1642, a legacy of £10 is bequeathed to his "worthy friend, sir Humphrey Davenport, knt., lord chief baron of the court of exchequer, at Westminster," and also several legacies to other distinguished supporters of the English monarchy, being personal friends of the testator, and united to him by loyal, constitutional, ecclesiastical, and other links. He died in 164-. His daughter Penelope was the wife of sir Cecil Trafford of Trafford, knt. (*Lanc. MSS.* vol. xx.), who had also a legacy of £10 from his friend Humphrey Chetham. (*Ib.*; *Lansdown MSS.*, vol. ii, pp. 514, 530, 616; *Barlow's Chesh.*, vol. ii, p. 115; *Beamont's Warrington and Beausy*, p. 49.)

The Davenports bore for arms—argent a chevron between three crosses crosslet fitché sable, a canton, gules.

³ James Livesay of Livesay, esq., eldest son of John Livesay (who ob. 1571), and of his wife Mary, daughter of Henry Talbot of Bashall, esq., was the heir and successor of his grandfather, Richard Livesay, gent., who died 13 Elizabeth, being the head of a family which was seated at a date beyond record in a hamlet and manor bearing their local name, in the parish of Blackburn. In 1567 he was an original governor of the Grammar school. Mr. James Livesay married Alice, daughter of James Bradshaw of Darcy Lever, and died April 1619, s.p.; his widow being living 19 Jac., and his nephew Ralph, son of his brother John, being his "adopted heir." Mr. James Livesay was elected a governor of Blackburn Grammar school in 1599 in the place of William Crosse, and then "gave xx^s to the school fund." (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. iii, p. 317.)

Aprill 1619, sance issue, and was Buried with escutchions whoe made his wyfe Alis sole executrix both of goods and lands for hir lyfe, of whom I did demand the fees, the first day of may this month hauing made diuers Jurnes thether and could not speake with hir before, whose answer was that at hir returne from London whether she was then going, she would either pay me, or giue me answer to the contrarie, which should be before midsummer next. 3^d. Mr. Anderton of Lostock esquire,⁴ died in Nouember 1619 whose only sonne and heir is in his none age, and ward to Mr. Preston of the Maner, his executors are Mr. Poole of Worrall, and Mr. Bradshaw of the Hay nere Wigan, of whome I did demand the fees who desired me, to giue him the

The family recorded a pedigree of four descents in 1613, and St. George, Norroy, considered the arms and crest assumed requiring proof; the arms were allowed, and three descents were recorded by Dugdale in 1664-5, but the crest was altered.

Arms, argent a lion rampant, gules, between three trefoils slipped, vert.

⁴ Christopher, second son of Christopher Anderton of Lostock (whose will was proved at York, 19 October 1593), succeeded his elder brother James, who was his father's executor, and æt. 36 ad mort. patr., but s.p. (See *Derby Househ. Books, Note*, p. 119, and Dugdale's *Visit.*, vol. i. p. 7.) His mother was Dorothy, one of the six daughters of Peter Anderton of Anderton, esq., by his first wife . . . , daughter of John Grenehalgh of Brandlesome, esq. He married Ann, daughter of Edward Scarisbrick of Scarisbrick, esq., and dying in November 1619 (not "circa 1623" *Dugdale*), was buried at Bolton-le-Moors. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. iii, p. 240.) His son and heir was Christopher Anderton, in ward to his uncle Roger Bradshaigh of Haigh, esq., and to John Poole of Poole in Wirrall, esq. He married first, about 1620, Agnes, daughter of John Preston, M.P. for Lancaster, of the manor and abbey of Furness (his wife was Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Richard Holland of Denton, esq.), by whom he had issue one daughter, Margaret, who died unmarried. He married secondly, Alatheia, daughter of sir Francis Smith of Wolstanwamer, in the county of Warwick, knt. In 1642 he lived in Salford, and had a legacy of £5 bequeathed by a (cancelled) will of his friend Humphrey Chetham (the founder). (*Lanc. MSS.*) Dying in 1650, he was succeeded by his son Francis Anderton of Lostock, esq., who was born in 1628, and who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheiress of sir Charles Somerset, K.B. of Troy, county Monmouth, sixth son of Edward, fourth earl of Worcester, lord privy seal, of the ancient and noble blood of the Beauforts. (For a notice of Christopher Anderton, esq., see *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, pp. 173, 197.)

The family did not appear at the Lancashire visitations of 1567 or 1613, but in 1664-5 recorded a pedigree of five descents and had arms allowed, sable three shack-bolts, argent, a mullet or, for difference of Anderton of Anderton.

meeting att Wardley, be for Mr. Downes the lawyer,⁵ wher he gaue me this answer that emediately after this tearme, if I did repaire vnto him again I should receaue the fees, if itt did belong to the executors, to pay itt which they would in the meantime be resolvd of. 4. Mr. Lanktree of Lanktree esquire,⁶ Dyed in

⁵ Roger Downes of Wardley, a barrister of Gray's Inn, vice-chamberlain of Chester, and whose will is dated 18 April 1637. He was succeeded by his son Francis Downes, who was baptised at Eccles, 19 July 1606, also a barrister-at-law, and who married Frances, daughter of John Preston of the manor and abbey of Furness, and sister of the first wife of Christopher Anderton of Lostock above named. She died s.p. 1648. Margery, the eldest sister of these ladies, was the wife of sir Francis Howard of Corby castle, second son of William lord Howard of Naworth. The will of Francis Downes, esq., is dated 20 February 1642-3, and contains an account of his creed, property, library, and family settlements. Proved at London, 14 August 1650. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. iii, p. 236; vol. xxv, pp. 245-7; *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, p. 197.) His estate passed to his brother John's son, Roger, who was baptized in 1648, the year in which his father died, and by whose will dated 22 June 1676 his sister Penelope became his heir. She married Richard Savage, earl of Rivers, who died 1712, s.p.

Arms at the visitation 1567, allowed by Norroy Dalton, argent, a griffin segreant, gules; and yet Downes of Wardley had the following arms allowed at Manchester in 1664-5, by Dugdale, who recorded a pedigree of four descents — Sable, a stag lodged, argent.

⁶ Edward, son of Gilbert Langtree of Langtree, esq., and of his wife Ellen, daughter of sir James Stanley of Cross hall, knt. (*Visit. Lanc.*, 1567.)

He was descended from a well-connected family settled soon after the Norman conquest in the parish of Standish. In the reign of Edward II. James de Standish held Standish, and Henry de Langtree held Langtree, under William de Ferrars. Standish and Langtree form one township, and the two manors seem to have been divided in equal shares between the allied families.

Edward Langtree was in the commission of the peace for Lancashire in 1597, and sometimes a commissioner of the duchy court. (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, part ii, p. 189); he was living in 1617. He married Isabel, daughter of Christopher Anderton of Lostock, afterwards the wife of Gervas Rockley of Rockley, esq. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xii.) His son, Thomas Langtree, was living in 1628, and on the 3 April in that year conveyed his estate to sir Ferdinand Fairfax of Denton, in the county of York, knt., Robert Rockley of Rockley, in the county of York, esq., William flarington of Worden, esq., Henry Fairfax of Ashton-under-Lyne, clerk, Thomas Worthington of Worthington, gent., and Peter Anderton of Anderton, gent., as trustees of the half manors of Langtree, Standish, Coppul, and Worthington, to the use of himself for life, and then to his heirs male, and failing male issue to his right heirs for ever. His estates were sequestered in June 1653, by the commonwealth, and the family apparently ruined. (*Manchester Guardian*, December 3, 1853.)

June, 1619 who made his wyfe executrix but she denying to vnder take itt, made his sonne and heir whom he had by a former wyfe and Mr. Gerratt of Ince,⁷ executors by letters of assignement. the heir being in his none age, I went to Ince to demand the fees of Mr. Gerratt, who had takne administration of all the goodes, and vndertakne to pay the debtes which he means to dow att his leasure for he keepes his gates contenually lockt and noe man must speak with him before he know his busines, I attended their aboute two houres for his answer, but could haue non other but this, that he was sent for to the Briñ by S^r Thomas Gerratt,⁸ whether I instantly rode and found the contrarie, I haue bene their since but can not speake with him, nor see him, theirfore I desier to be aduised from you, what to dow in this case to be avenged, that the Office may not be defrauded, nor I make soe many Tedeous Jurnes in vaine. Mr. Francis Nuttall of Blakeley in the parish of midleton Gent.⁹ died in October, 1619 and was

The arms of Langtree, recorded at Flower's visitation of Lancashire in 1567, were sable, a chevron argent, a canton ermine.

⁷ Miles Gerard of Ince, who married Grace, daughter of Gabriel Hesketh of Aughton, and had issue a son and heir, Thomas, who in 1613 married Ellen, daughter of Edward Langtree of Langtree, and recorded a pedigree of four descents at St. George's visitation.

⁸ Sir Thomas Gerard, the second baronet, of Bryn, died about 1630, having married Frances, daughter of sir Richard Molineux of Sefton, bart. (Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 116.)

⁹ Francis Nuttall of Blackley hall, near Middleton, but in the parish of Manchester, was in the profession of the law, and was the successor of William Asheton, esq., of Clegg hall, and of Robert Radcliffe, esq., in the high local office of steward of the court leet and court baron of sir John Byron, the manorial lord of Rochdale. Mr. Nuttall was steward of the court from 29 November 1606, to the 11 August 1609. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. vii.) On the 8 March 1596-7, his daughter Dorothy was baptized at Middleton. (*Register Book*.) The wife of Mr. Francis Nuttall was buried at Rochdale, 10 August 1597. In 1604-5 he was an overseer of the will of the rev. Oliver Carter, B.D., the minister of Blackley, and fellow of the Collegiate church of Manchester. (*Derby Househ. Book, Notes*, p. 131.) His *Post Mort. Inq.* was taken 18 Jac.; his lands and messuages at Blackley and Gorton descended to his son and heir, John Nuttall. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xiv, p. 15.) "Mr. Francis Nuttall of Blackley," did not die in October, as in the text, being buried at Middleton, 24 September 1619. (*Ib.*; *Manchester Court Leet Records*, p. 169, appendix.) And on the 30

buried with the patirnull coate and quartrings of Nuttall de Nuttall, with out difference, whose sonne and heir John Nuttall with his second brother James did denye to pay the fees, and further did affirme, that the lords could make noe such lawes, which could in Ioyne his lands to any such payments, for itt was contrarye to the lawes of the Relme, his land being intayled, with many other paremptorie. and unreuerent speches. Mr. Othes

December 1630, "Mr. James Nuttall de Blackeley," probably the second son here named, was also buried there. (*Ib.*) John, son and heir of Francis Nuttall of Blackeley, gent., married Grace, one of the three daughters and coheirresses of Thomas Crompton of Crompton, gent., and of his wife Jane (married at Rochdale, 6 January 1597-8), daughter of Edward Newbold of Newbold, gent. The other coheirresses were the wives, Deborah, of Samuel Hamer of Hamer, gent., and Grace, of Robert Hyde of Denton, esq. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. viii. p. 357.)

It is not improbable that Mr. Francis Nuttall was a collateral descendant of the old feudal house of Nuttall of Nuttall, in the parish of Bury, notwithstanding the scepticism of Mr. Leonard Smedley. In the will of Charles Nuttall of Nuttall, gent., dated 1557, he names his brother Edward of Wardleworth, in Rochdale, and his (testator's) son and heir Richard, who married Elizabeth, daughter of . . . Holt of Bridge Hall, in Bury, and whose son and heir Charles Nuttall died in 1579, also his (testator's) sons Charles, Ralph, George, his daughters Agnes, wife of Richard Rawsthorne of Lum, Maud, and Alice. From the grandson Charles, by his wife Alice, daughter of James Ramsbotham, descended Richard and Charles, living in 1579, who held lands in Rochdale, probably owing to their connection with the Holts of Stubble. Charles Nuttall of Wardleworth, gent., held lands at Longacre, in Spotland, by copy of court dated 9 May 44 Elizabeth, "granted" originally "to Charles Nuttall of Nuttall, gent., grandfather of the said Charles" (*Ib.*, vol. xxi. p. 222); 23 April, 3 Jac., Richard Nuttall, son of Charles Nuttall of Nuttall, gent., deceased, was admitted to lands in Spotland and Hundersfield; and 7 Jac. Richard Nuttall of Nuttall, gent., held the same lands (*Ib.*, vol. vii. p. 32); 21 October, 21 Jac., Richard Nuttall of Nuttall, gent., surrendered lands in Spotland to Charles Nuttall of Wardleworth, his uncle, for a term of eighty years (*Ib.* p. 63), afterwards surrendered to Richard Entwisle, gent. of Foxholes, 4 October, 5 Car. (*Ib.* p. 66.) On the 13 March, 20 Jac., Francis Nuttall of Blackeley, gent., surrendered lands in Spotland to Charles Nuttall of Wardleworth, senr. (*Ib.* p. 54; *Harl. MS.*, 2113, p. 129; Ormerod's *Parentalia*; Piccope's *MS.* vol., Chetham library.)

Probably the descent of lands, ancient documents, armorial bearings, and sepulchral inscriptions, may yet supply the precise link required to connect these several members with the parent house, which bore arms, argent a shackle bolt, sable, but did not appear at any of the Lancashire visitations. Nuttall of Tottington, which did appear in 1664-5, seems to have been an off-shoot.

Holland of Newhall,¹⁰ sonne of Georg Holland of Manchester,

¹⁰ It is not improbable that the traditional claim of descent from this very great family was well founded, although questioned by the herald's deputy in Manchester, whose knowledge would at least be superficial.

The Hollands of Clifton were admitted, by authority, to descend from a younger son of the Hollands of Denton, who were settled there in the reign of Edw. I. or II.; and Otho, son of William de Holland and his wife Margery, daughter of Henry de Trafford, was living 23 Edw. III. (*Harl. MS.* 2112, fo. 163; *Visit. Lanc.* 1567.) The Hollands continued at Clifton, in the rank of lesser gentry, down to the restoration of Charles II., but the link connecting them with the house of Denton, or the Newhall Hollands with the house of Clifton, has not been discovered. Otho, or Otes, was a Christian name peculiar at least both to Newhall and Clifton, which are houses in the parish of Eccles. The arms borne by Holland of Clifton were the same as those borne by Holland of Denton and Heaton, with a crescent for a second son. Azure a lion rampant guardant between six fleurs-de-lis argent, over all a bend, gules. In 1567 both families appeared at the Lancashire visitation and recorded their arms and descent, but at Dugdale's visitation the Heaton Hollands alone preferred their claims.

The first of the Newhall line appears to be "George Holland of Eccles, yeoman," who was dead in August, 26 Hen. VIII., leaving a son Otho Holland, whose son and heir George was buried 6 July 1589, and the will of his wife Elizabeth is dated 3 May 1598, she having died in that year. (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, part ii, p. 146.) George Holland was a "clothier," and had been a successful tradesman in Salford. He left surviving issue: (1) Otho; (2) Robert in holy orders, M.A., baptized . . . 1576-7, his will is dated 26 December 1618, proved 1619; ob. s.p.; (3) Ann the wife of Francis Pendleton, gent.; and (4) Isabel the wife of James, son and heir of Henry Chetham of Crumpsall, gent., James being the eldest brother of Humphrey Chetham, esq., the founder. In the marriage covenant of Isabel Holland and James Chetham, dated 25 October 1587, "George Holland of Salford, gent.," as he is described, provides that his daughter's marriage portion shall be "£133 6s. 8d., and also meat, drinke and lodging for four years; that he will apparell her in comelie and decent manner, and gyve her a bed sufficientlie furnished at the daie of marryage, and will also of his owne coste and charge provyde a convenyent marryag dynner for the sayd James and Isabel," Henry Chetham settling lands in tail male at Kersal and Crumpsall, and securing her thirds to Isabel (*Lanc. MSS.*), who died in 1605-6, and was buried at the Collegiate church of Manchester, her son George being ultimately the heir male of his wealthy uncle, Humphrey Chetham, esq.

The son and heir of George, viz. "Otho Holland of Newhall within Pendleton, gent.," married Katherine, daughter of George Lime of Southwick, in the county of Northampton, esq. [of an armigerous family], on the 29 September 1597. The marriage covenant is dated 15 June 1597, and several farms lying in Nassington, "the inheritance of George Lime, esquier," are settled on the issue of the marriage, in tail male, as well as £100 to be paid annually to Otho Holland, during three years, on

clothier, dyed the 24th of Januarie 1619 and was buried in the Coleadageall church of Manchester, with the Armes and quartrings of Holland of Clifton with out any difference, wrought vpon Bukorum, in mettalles, neather can they show any proufe

Michaelmas day; and the said Mr. Lime covenants to give Otho Holland "when he comes to live at Nassington 100 lambs, 6 kye, and the furniture of a bed." Otho Holland died at Newhall on the 16 January 1619-20, and was buried in the Collegiate church of Manchester (as mentioned in the text), and although a will is here named, administration of his personal estate was granted to his widow, "Katherine Holland of Newhall," her bondsman James Chetham of Crumpsall, gent., being bound to the bishop of Chester in the penal sum of £1200, 1 February 1619-20. (*Ibid.*) Mrs. Katherine Holland was buried in the Collegiate church 22 January 1622-3. (*Reg. Bk.*) Of their five children, George and James only survived to maturity. George the elder, born at Nassington in 1599, married Alice, daughter of . . . who administered to her husband's effects 5 August 1635; and she afterwards became the wife of Henry Smith, gent. James, the younger son, was baptized at Eccles 26 June 1606, and became "mercier" and "grocer" in London. On the 7 July 1635, his brother George conveyed to him, by deed, lands at Newhall on his marriage with Mary, daughter of . . . Blomfield, who survived him. On the 21 January 1627-8, he gave a release to his uncle James Chetham, gent., for a legacy bequeathed to his wife by her wealthy Manchester "cosen," Mrs. Margaret Nugent, the relative of the Mosleys, Tippings, Chethams, and other considerable mercantile families in that town, and a donor of Communion plate to the Collegiate church.

James Holland, who was possessed of Newhall, lived partly in London, and seems to have been an opulent merchant. His will is dated 20 April 1677, proved 14 August following, and he was buried in the Collegiate church, Manchester, 24 May in that year. He had one sister Mary, the wife of Arthur Trickle of Wakefield, who gave a discharge, for a legacy of £100, to Mr. James Chetham, the executor of Mrs. Nugent, 25 May 1652. His only son and heir, Otho Holland of Newhall, gent., married at Eccles, 18 August 1678, Alice, daughter of Ferdinando Stanley of Broughton hall, esq. He died 5 November 1712, æt. 74, will dated 4 May 1712, buried 17 November at the Collegiate church, and his widow on the 8 August 1723, leaving four daughters their coheiresses. Of these, Mary became the wife of Robert Cooke of Worsley, esq., ancestor of Thomas Cooke Alderson of Peterborough, in the county of Northampton, esq., the present owner of Newhall. Alice, daughter of Robert Cooke and his wife Mary Holland, became the wife of John Milne (ob. 4 October 1757) of Manchester, gent. (son of the rev. Richard Milne of Milnrow), and the ancestor of a succession of distinguished solicitors in Manchester, as well as of Richard Milne, esq., born 20 July 1768, and who died at Bedford place, Russell square, London, in 1841, the generous founder of "Milne's Clergy Charity," great uncle of Richard Milne Redhead of Manchester, esq., barrister-at-law. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxxi, pp. 126, 127, 491; *Gastrell's Notitia Cestr.*, vol. ii, pt. ii, p. lxxvii.)

for their Decent, from Clifton, more ouer I am informd, that this Othes Holland was one of those that did denie his Gentry, at Manchester, in your visitation of Lankeshyre. he made his wyfe Catheran, and his second sonne James executors, which sonne is but a child, his heir is not yett 16 yeare of age. I did demand the fees both of him and his mother, who made me answer that she would aske counsell and within 12 dayes giue me answer, but I stayed twysse twelue dayes and receaued none, att which time I repaired againe vnto hir for answer, which she sent me by hir sonne and heir Georg Holland, which was this, that they had asked counsell of some of their frends, who aduised them to pay noe thing, neather would they. theirfore I earnestly desier that some speedie course, may be takne, that these thre last may be presedents to all the rest, and that itt may be effected before the time, that the other haith apoynted to giue answer. in which busines if the office may imploy me, with the executing of their warrants from the Lords or otherwyse, they shall not find me slack in performing the same, all be itt, that it be with the hazard of my lyfe. these presedentes would be verie vsefull being soe neere Manchester where I liue, not onely in respect of them, which I haue formerly nomunated, but it would be an emenent prospect before the eyes of the heirs and executors of these tow knightes, being near neabors, vnto them, now lately deceased, vidt Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow,¹¹ who died about the 27 of Aprill 1620 and was buried att Manchester

¹¹ Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow, near Manchester, was knighted in 1603 by James I. He married Mary, daughter of sir Urian (not William) Brereton of Honford, knt., and dying 20 April 1620, was buried in Manchester Collegiate church; his funeral certificate being sent to the college of arms, according to the information supplied, by sir Alexander Barlow, the son, on 30 October 1620, to Leonard Smethley, deputy for the office of arms. The information furnished is very minute and accurate, according to the decree of the earl marshall (*Lanc. Fun. Cert.*, pp. 3, 95.) The family became extinct, in the male line, in the latter half of the last century. (See a long biographical note in the *Derby Househ. Books*, p. 212.)

Arms borne at the Lancashire visitation in 1567, sable a double-headed eagle displayed argent, membered, or, standing on the limb of a tree, raguled and trunked of the second.

church by torch leight, whose executors cannot yet resolue whether to haue a funerall or noe, by reson sume of them ar yet in the south parte neere London, and not come downe, but within 20 daies I am to receaue an absolute answer. alsoe Sr Edmund Trafford of Trafford,¹² was buried the 8 of this month with Black onely att Manchester church, by torch leight, and had a funerall sermon by candle leight, whoe haith left such an ambiguous will that neather the lieir which shall in heritt is known, nor the number of executors, nor can not be before ten dayes after midsomer next, which time Sr Vrian Leigh of Adlington,¹³ Sr Peter Leigh of Lyme,¹⁴ and others haue apoynt, for the ordering and establishing of quietnes and vnitie among the 4 Bretheren. And what proceedings doth pass, both concerning this, and the rest, I will not be neclegent to lett you knowe, alsoe I heard this day, by a phesishion that see him die, that Mr. Talbot of Bashall esquier¹⁵ died in march last with out issue, but I could not learne

¹² Sir Edmund Trafford, knt., M. P., deputy lieutenant and justice of the peace, was the son and heir of a knight of both his names, to whose estate he succeeded in 1590. He was an active partisan of queen Elizabeth's government. He married (1) Margaret, eldest of the four daughters and coheiresses of John Booth of Barton, esq. (who died 2 October 1576, and of his wife Ann, daughter of Richard Assheton of Middleton, whom he married there 23 November 1547), by whom he had issue, Edmund, John, Richard, and one daughter Elizabeth, wife of Richard Fleetwood. It is erroneously stated in the *Derby Household Books*, that these sons died in their father's lifetime, p. 99. The large estate of the Booths, which ought to have descended to the eldest son and his heirs male in right of his mother, was the subject of the contention here named. Sir Edmund married (2) in 1598, the lady Mildred, third daughter of Thomas, first earl of Exeter, and widow of sir Ralph Read, the wealthy nephew and heir of sir Thomas Gresham, knt., the founder of the royal exchange, London; by this lady he had a son, afterwards sir Cecil Trafford, who ultimately succeeded to the estates of his half-brothers, and also of their father. (*Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxiii, p. 244; *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, p. 99.) Smethley sent the funeral certificate of sir Edmund to the college of arms. He died on the 19 May 1620, and was buried in the Collegiate church of Manchester, on the 28th, aged 59 years. (*Lanc. Fun. Cert.*, p. 47.)

¹³ For some account of sir Urian Legh, see *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, pp. 100, 101.

¹⁴ For some account of sir Peter Legh of Lyme, see *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, p. 145.

¹⁵ Thomas, son and heir of John Talbot of Bashall, in Craven, esq., descended from Thomas de Talbot, a relative of the de Lacys, earls of Lincoln, who was constituted

who was his executors, the gathering of whose fees is lyke to be chargable to me, as some of the rest haith bene, by reason of the remotenes of the place and the vnsertaintie of the executores whome and where I am to repaire vnto, it haith coste me all-redie, more money in ryding about these busineses, be sydes the necklect of time, then I shall Gayne in seuen yeare, by gathering of the fees att tow shillings in twentie, theirfore I would desyer your wor^p and the rest of the office to consider of it and augment my allowance, soe that I may not altogether spend my owne money and pains both. thus desyering pardon for my tedeousnes, leauing the premises to your consideration I seace from detaining you any longer, and humbly take my leaue, and rests, euer.

Manchester,

May the 10th

1620.

Your worshipps to Command

LEONARD SMEDLEY.

To the Reight worship^{ll} S^r Richard S^t georg Knight,
Norroy King of Armes att his house in
Holiborne these be del^d with speed.

governor of Clitheroe castle by Edmund de Lacy, constable of Chester, temp. Henry III., and who had by Lacy's gift, 37 Henry III., 1256, the manor of Bashall. The family continued at Bashall in unbroken and distinguished male descent, until the death of the individual named in the text. He married 7 Jac. I., Ann, daughter of Richard Fleetwood of Penwortham, in the county of Lancaster, esq., by Margery, daughter of Thomas Leigh of Eggington, in the county of Derby, esq., and had two daughters, his coheireses, Elizabeth, born in 1613, who married (1) Thomas Lewys, son and heir of Thomas Lewys of Marr, in the county of York, esq., and cousin of sir John Lewys, bart., of Ledstone house; and (2) Theobold, viscount Bourke of Mayo, but ob. s.p.; and Margery, born in 1614, who married colonel William White of Duffield, in the county of Derby, esq., and who continued the line of Talbot of Bashall, now represented by Lloyd of Plymog, in the county of Denbigh. Thomas Talbot, esq., died 25 February 1618-19, as appears by his *Inq. post mort.* taken on the 1 April 1620.

The arms, borne by Thomas Talbot in 1256, were argent three lioncels, salient, purpure, langued and armed, azure; and the same continued to be borne by all his descendants. (*Dugdale's Baronage* in voce Talbot; *Whitaker's Hist. of Craven*; *Burke's Landed Gentry*.)

Mr. LEONARD SMEDLEY to RANDLE HOLME.

Kynd Mr. Holmes,¹⁶

for your trew loue, and kynd councell wher in I fynd you still more lyke a father, then a frend, I can but returne you thankes, and espesially, for this kynd promis and profer you haue made me in saueing me my London Jurney att this time, and the effecting of my busienes at the office which you haue promised to doe, which I make noe question but you both will and can, better then I should haue done my selfe, concerning Mr. Heskit¹⁷ fees, as you can trewly in forme them, that all the

¹⁶ This was Randle Holme, who died in 1655, the first of the four well-known genealogists and deputy heralds of Chester, of whose family, their intimate connection with the college of arms, London, and the particulars of a formidable misunderstanding which long existed between sir William Dugdale and one of its ablest members on the subject here referred to, some account has already been given in the life of sir William Dugdale, prefixed to the *Lancashire Visitation of 1664-5*, vol. i, pp. 22, 23 et seq. (Chetham series.)

¹⁷ Robert Hesketh of Rufford, esq., who ob. 1622, was three times married. He had by his first wife Mary, daughter of sir George Stanley, knt., marshall of Ireland, Robert, his successor, sheriff of Lancashire in 1607, and ancestor of the present family; and by his third wife Joan, daughter of Thomas Spencer of Rufford (one of the tenants), he had issue a son, named also Robert, born before marriage, and called here "second son of the defunct," who seems to have treated his own mother with great harshness, probably on the ground of recusancy. On the 10 September, 18 Jac., it was stated that Jane, widow of Robert Hesketh, of Rufford, esq., had voluntarily and knowingly committed felony by harbouring and receiving one Edward Barlow of Beconsall, clerk, a professed Jesuit with authority from the see of Rome, who was at large and out of prison against the form of the statute and the peace of the king. And it was stated that the said Jane had heard mass said by the said Barlow on the first and nine following days of September, 16 Jac., whereby she was guilty of felony. (*Lanc. MSS.*) Mr. Roger Dodsworth, who had married Holcroft, relict of Laurence Rawsthorne and daughter of the deceased Robert Hesketh, esq., by his second wife, vindicated, as might have been expected, the claims and rights of the college of arms, and obtained the fee for the deputy-herald. The mediation of sir Richard Hoghton, bart., was occasioned by his having married the widow, Mrs. Hesketh, *née* Spencer. (See Dugdale's *Lanc. Visit.*, 1664-5, p. 135, and *Derby Househ. Books, Notes*, pp. 125-6, and p. 202.)

money I receaved was tow litle for the work I did, and had itt not bene for one Mr. Dodsworth¹⁸ that stoud my good frend I had not had that neather by reason of the mischeef that fell out betwene Mr. Robert Heskitt and his stepmother who was sole executrix to Mr. Hiskitt hir husband, who after that she had promised me the fees and to be well satisfied for the hearse and hatchments I should dow for him, but before the work was don some had giuen hir consill that she neded pay noe fees which caused hir to cauill, and Mr. Robert Heskitt second sonn of the defunct had seased of all the goods for the king and aprehended hir as a fellow, soe that S^r Ri. Haughton did begg hir befor she came to tryall, which mischeef soe falling out made me glad to tak what I could gett, soe that when the office doth vnder stand by you the treuth, they will att your request abate some thing. secondly I desire you to wryte to them att large concerning Deodatus Pallitt, a painter in Wigan, who hath made a hearse for Mr. Rigbie¹⁹ a Counsillor of the same towne, and another for

¹⁸ For some account of Roger Dodsworth see the Life of sir William Dugdale, prefixed to the *Visitation of Lancashire*, 1664-5, pp. 8, 9, etc. (Chetham series.) It may be added that Dodsworth left surviving issue one son, the rev. Robert Dodsworth, who married Alice, daughter of Thomas Stirrup of Lincoln, and widow of Robert Sandiford of High Ashes, near Ashton-under-Lyne, gent., by whom he had a son Robert, born in 1658, and living at the visitation of Yorkshire in 1666. The historian's younger brother, the rev. Edward Dodsworth, rector of Badsworth (æt. 70 in 1666), had a son Matthew, born in 1654, and four daughters.

¹⁹ Alexander Rigby of Wigan and Peele, in the county of Lancaster, barrister-at-law of Gray's inn, was the eldest son and heir of John Rigby of the same. He married, first, Alice, daughter of Leonard Ashaw of the Shaw, esq., and by her had issue three sons and three daughters. He married secondly, Isabel, daughter and coheirss of John Cuerden of Cuerden, in the county of Lancaster, but had by her no issue. He died at Wigan in 1621, leaving issue four sons and three daughters, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander, born about the year 1594, afterwards of Middleton, in Goosnargh, a benchor of Gray's inn, and an esquire of the body to king James I. The family recorded a pedigree of five descents at the visitations of Lancashire in 1613 and 1664-5, and bore arms, argent on a cross patonée, sable, five mullets pierced, or. There is also a pedigree in Fishwick's *History of Goosnargh*.

my ould ladye Molinex,²⁰ and a third att Whalley but whoe it is for I haue not yett learnd, and all with in this twelue month, and more ouer ther is noe Gent. dies but as soone as he heres of itt he repares thether, and doth profess that if he may haue the work, he will discharg them for paying any fee, for their is none dew and that it is but meere cosinidg and delushion, and doth recounte vnto them for presedents as many as he can who as he saith nether haith paid nor will pay, and this he doth persist in, and saith he will dow, both in dispite of me and all that will take my part, their fore I pray you vrge this perticuler as earnestly as you can, that the office will procure a warrant from the lords to send downe to me, to serue vpon this fellow to bring him before them, and with all in the said warrant to leaue a blank for the names of 5 or 6 that will not pay, which if they can I make noe question but yett be fore michaelmas day to gather fortie pound in fees, and this I promis them they shall fynd trew that except some such course be houldne, they shall nott out of Lankeshyre receaue fortie shilling this fortie yeare, except that which I haue all redie receaued of Mr. Heskit's, and which I was promised soe long agoe, which will be redie with the serteficat to send with Mr. Heskits acording to the time the office shall apoint, if their can be noe warrant gotne, other wyse I hope to carie them vp my selfe with more that shall be worth the careing, which I pray God I may, vnto whose protection I comitt you, and will euer rest

Manchester,

May the 6th 1622.

Yors in whatt he may,

LEONARD SMETHLEY.

That the E. marshall shall be made acquaynted with the painter but he cannot haue the warrant, but must be suer to proue these matters.

²⁰ Probably Frances, daughter of sir Gilbert Gerard of Gerard's Bromley, in the county of Stafford, knt., and sister of the first lord Gerard, who was the wife of sir Richard Molyneux, bart., father of the first viscount Maryborough, ancestor of the earls of Sefton.

[On the inside in different hand : — To S^r Tho. Smith,²¹ that they expect the fees from him and that is no evasion.]

To his verie loving and aproved good frend
Mr. Randolph Holmes, att his house in the
Bridg Street in Chester, these be dd.

²¹ Sir Thomas Smith of Hatherton, county Chester, knt., mayor of Chester in 1596 and sheriff in 1600, married Ann, daughter of sir William Brereton, and had issue a son Lawrence, afterwards named by Randle Holme as having paid the fees "with mutch adoe," and whose grandson was created a baronet in 1660.

Mr. LEONARD SMEDLEY to Sir RICHARD S^t GEORGE.

Reight worth

I understand that it haith pleased the Office to substitute Mr. Dodsworth to suplye the place where in I was, and to call in my deputation which I willingly surendred vnto the hande of Mr. Holmes, from whom I receaued it againe, vpon the seight of Mr. Dodsworths new deputation to the vsse of Mr. Dodsworth, hauing a letter from him to Mr. Holmes to that purpose, Mr. Dodsworth hauing formerly promised me to establish me in my former place by Authority from him vpon reasonable tearmes, as well with in the Countie of York as else where, but I found it was to make vss of me for his owne proffitt, as the euent did proue, for he sleightly cast me of, and emediate Authorised Mr. Binke of Yorke and others, for the managing of these Affaires in these parts, as alsoe one Thomas Renshaw of Preston here in Lankeshyre, a poore ignorant fellow, and noe workman, which will be ameanes to bring a contempt against the office, if it shall goe forward that who giues most shall be Authorised, yet being willing to doe my best seruice to the office did receaue an aquittance from Mr. Dodsworth for S^r Richard Mollineux his fee, but could not receaue it vpon that aquittal, I hauing nether Authoritie nor deputation to receaue it with out a letter from Mr. Holmes, vpon the receate of which S^r Ri. promised to pay it me, which letter I had, by vertew of which letter vpon the former aquittance and myne owne I receaued the fee, which I now haue, and if the office please, as they haue called in my deputation, soe to deliuer me in my bond or generall releace, and send it to Mr. Holmes of Chester to deliuer me, I will vpon the receate their of pay him the money, and if it please the office to tollerate or giue me leaue, by tow or three words vnder some of their handes for the dowing of funurall escutchions or the lyke, I shall labore to show my thankfullnes, and to the vtter

most of my pooer helpe forward the payment of the fees, and as ocasion shall be offered, to assist Mr. Dodsworth the best I can, not for any desert of his owne, but by the trew loue and seruice which I owe vnto the Office, thus desiring your wor^p to consider of the premissises. And lett me heare from you, at the returne of the Carrear or as sowne as conueniently you can, whylst the money is to be had, for if I can not receaue my bond or generall releace, I will deliuer the money to Mr. Litler that is bound with me, who will secure me. thus with my deutie and humble seruice rem^{ed} to y^r wor^p and the rest of the office I tak my leaue and will euer rest

Manchester,

September 23rd 1623.

Yor Wor^{ps} to Co^mmand

to his power,

LEONARD SMETHLEY.

To the Right Worth and his worthy Frend,
S^r Richard S^t georg Knight, King of Armes,
at his house in Houlbourn — these ðð.

Mr. LEONARD SMEDLEY to Sir RICHARD S^t GEORGE.

Reight worpth S^r.

I haue receaued your letters dated the 16th of Aprill, and haue beene with S^r Tho. Gerratt, who as I supose haith had sune euill counsell, as concerning the fees, for I found him in an humore far difrint from that, I left him in, for he makes me this answer, that he will pay me none, for these reasons, first he is nether executor, nor will haue any thing to doe with his father's goods. Secondly all his fathers lands are extended, besides many other reasons he could and will alledg when ocasion shall be offred, and att Michaellmass tearme he saith he wilbe at London, and if the Office haue any thing to say vnto him, he will bee redie to answere them, but makes noe question, but through frends he will procure, and reasons he can alledg, that if he should be brought before the Lords he can quite him self from the fees, but I think that if the Office should sudainly call him vp, before he haith takne ordors with some of his fathers credetors, vnto whom he stands ingadged with him, that he would rather pay the fees, the[n] come to plead, by reason of avoyding greater inconueniences, but I leaue it to your discrecion, who better knowes what to dow then I can aduyse. I was alsoe with young S^r. Ri. Molineux, as concerning the ould Lady Mollineux, hir funurall, but he made me answer that he thought, ther would be nether funurall, nor priuate hearse, erected for hir. but if their were I should know of itt, and now since my being their, he haith imployed one Deodatus Paullitt, a painter dwelling in Wiggan, an ignorant fellow that is noe worke man, to make Scutchions and other ornaments for a priuat hearse for the aforesaid Lady, which when I heard of itt, I tooke an honist sufficient man, of the towne, with me, and went to the painters house, and desired hime to lett me se the worke, which was then in hand, but he tould me I should not, before he had sett it up, which he would dow in dispyte of me, and my Athoritie, which

he would make me to show before a Judg of Assises, and bid me take heed he made me not louse myne eares, for he knew my Athoritie to be nought, and I my selfe was lyke vnto itt, for I was a cosner, and with itt, did cosne the cuntrie, with many other speeches which would be both tow dedious and unfitt to relate. such as before I neuer receaued from any man. Where vpon I acquainted the Maior of the Towne, who emediatly sent for him, and at my request bound [him] ouer, to answer me, before the Judg at the next assises at Lankister, for what he had said, and don, yet before I departed I offred to releace him, that bond, and giue aprobasion to what he had done, and at mine owne charges and pains reforme what ererors, he had comitted in that worke, because it was for soe worthy and noble a Gent', unto whome I was loath to giue any distast or cause of offence, provided that he would giue me his bond that he would not at any time hereafter entermedle with any of those businesses without my leaue, which Mr. Maior and all that heard it, thought it to be both a reasonable and honest motion: yet he, refused it, and said he would not be bound from that kynd of work, but would doe it, for any one that would imploy him, and as he said before both in despite of me, or any that would take my part, therefore I desire, that it would please your wor' and the Office to take some speedie course with him, or else prescrybe me what I shall doe in it, for I haue bound him ouer to the Assises, onely to giue satisfaction, to the contrie, where his violentt reuylings should be deuoldged, and some thing to mitigate his tongue, but when I haue him at Lankister, I know not what to doe with him, their fore it were good, that some course were takne with him in the meane time, or else that I may know from the Office what to doe with him when I haue him their. Their is alsoe another curtecie, that I desire to receaue from yo^r wor^p and the Office, which is this, their was a priuate Hearse erected in Manchester Church, for S^r Edmund Trafford, and the black cloath that is vpon the same, which the Clarkes of the Church doth clame as their dew, being worth about thre pounds or fiue markes,

which if I be not mistakne doth belong to the Office, which if it would please you or the Office to be stow on me, I will labour to deserue it, or else if it belong vnto them, that I may receaue some warrantie ether from your selfe, or some of the Office to take itt, and what itt shall be praised vnto or sould for I will returne and pay att Michaellmas tearme when I come to the Office to pay those fees I haue and shall in the meantime receaue²²; the hearse will shortly be takne downe, therfore I desier to know their resolucion and yo^r wor^{ps} answer, with what conuenient expedicion yo^r leasure will pmit thus with my humble deutie Rem' to yo^r wor^p and my Good Lady, with my kynd loue and seruys vnto Mr. Henrie S^t Georg yo^r Sonne and the Office in generall, I humbly take my leaue and will euer rest.

Manchester,
May 27th 1622.

Yo^r worships to co^mmand
to his power,
LEONARD SMETHLEY.

Postscript. Mr. Dodsworth rem' his loue and seruys to y^r wor^p, and haith sent you a letter hear inclosed, the answer where of, he desierys you to send vnto me, and I shall deliuer it to his hands. for I should goe in to that cuntrie at Midsumer,²³ or before if I receaue your answer. for I haue promist him to bring it with me when I come, and he will goe with me to Mr. Haggerston of Cuerdon, being

²² "The Clarkes of the Church" were probably the warden and fellows, or rather they might, in this case, be the vicars of the parish who, with the churchwardens, had given permission for the cloth, as "an ensign of honour," to be placed in the church. The "hearse cloth," as it was called, and other similar trappings, for which no provision was made by any special law, were at the disposal of the authority by which they were admitted into the church. Neither the heralds nor the heir of the deceased had any legal claim, the cloth being the perquisite of the vicars at that time as it is now, although placed in the chapel or aisle of a private family.

²³ Probably to Hutton Grange, near Penwortham, in north-east Lancashire, where Mr. Dodsworth lived.

a gent' of his familiar acquaintance and sole executor to Mr. Butler of Rawcliff²⁴ an esquire of whom I ame to receaue that fees.

(Indorsed) To his Honored and worthy frend S^r Richard S^t Georg Norroy King of Armes att his house in Houlborne, a litle aboute the blew boore in London.

²⁴ Henry Butler of Rawcliffe, esq., died in 1622, leaving by his wife Ann, daughter of Henry Banastre of Bank, esq., a son and heir William, and three other sons. Margaret his second daughter, was the wife of William Haggerston of Haggerston, in the county of Northumberland, ancestor of the present baronet of that name.

MR. RANDALL HOLME to Sir RICHARD S^t GEORGE.

Right wor^{ll}

My hūmble duty Remembred I haue no occatyon to write vnto you sithens I receaved a letter from the offic wherearin you wished me to S^r Richard Molineux into Lancashire to receave the fee and from him I went ther S^r Richard promessed to paye it onely he de a smale tyme of forbearance the which I yealded vnto, In the tyme ther came to me Mr. Smedley wth a letter from Mr. Dodsw . . and also his deputatyone to shew me that he was newly deputed, willing to give vp the ould deputatyon I tooke from Mr. Smedley, that he might dispose thereof as he thought fitt, the which I did not thinking but that Mr. Dodsworth would haue imployd Smedley vnder him for I will assure you that Smedley haveing a good backe and to be Countenansed would be the fittest and prove best for the offic for the good therof better then any I know of in that Countey, for after I had by yo^r derectyon taken vp his deputatyon and had put one in trust for that part, I layd a plot with Smedles help whe tooke great paynes and chardges which at the first must needs be soe before a thing can be settled and having begun so haue put some things in order booth for the good of the offic and Smedles better maintenance then comes Mr. Dodsworth the which I willingly gave way vnto, but I hear that Mr. Dodsworth will put of Mr. Smedley to haue no dooing vnder him and authorises other more vnskyllfull the which I feare will not be good for the Creditt of the offic Therfor lett me intreat you that as I haue found alwayes your good respect of me that you would be pleased to write to Mr. Dodsworth to make a tryall of Mr. Smedley vnder him for lanc. for the working of funerall Escochons and not so suddenly to Cashire him, for I do not fynd sutch falts in the man as was imagined for I will assure you I haue made diligent enquire what fees he hath receaved but I cannot fynd

any but those he hath acquittance from the offic he hath payd in onely sav . . . Mr. Heskets which he never denyed to paye altho he receaved but a sm . . . part therof but that was his owne falt compounding for so litle . . . his work and fee it seemeth not wthstanding some dislike between Mr. Dodsworth and Smedley. Mr. Dodsworth sent Mr. Smedley wth an acquitanc to S^r Richard Molineux to receave the fee, the which by the vertue of yo^r letter I was to haue receaved and had taken paynes therin made the Funeral Certificate and been at chardges in 2 dayes travell likewise payment promessed me, and was redy to haue gone oⁿ agean the tyme appoynted for the receat therof, but Mr. Smedley went wth Mr. Dodsworth acquittance, vpon the which S^r Richard denyed payment vntill he had a letter from Mr. Smedley beeing ther writt to me howe the case stood. I willing to sett forward althings for the good of the offic writt to S^r Richard the cobby whearof is heer inclosed vpon the which S^r Richard payd the fee which is now safe put up in Mr. Smedleys keeping vntill he shall heer from you who to deliⁿ it vnto other to me vnto whom I take it belongeth be reason as aforesaid the which vpon the Receapt I will send speedily to you wth the certificat or if it be your pleasuer that it be deliⁿed to Mr. Dodsworth yett the fee for collecting must needs be graunted vnto me, I am sure it hath cost me aboue xxx^s in Ryding to manchester vpon yo^r letter concerning taking vp of Smedleys deputatyon and taking pay' amongst the partes ther and enquiring of Smedles behavior so it stands to good reason that I should haue some consideratyon now Smedle beeing dischardged from his place desyreth to have vp his bond which if it pleases yo to send to me I shall deliⁿ it him vpon the receat of the money, you writt to me that S^r Tho^mas Ireland²⁵ had payd Mr. Jeffreys fees²⁶ and promessed to pay me at

²⁵ For some account of sir Thomas Ireland, knt., see *Funeral Certificates*, p. 49, Chetham series.

²⁶ John Jefferys of Acton, in the county of Denbigh, esq., married Margaret, daughter of sir Thomas Ireland of Bewsey, in the county of Lancaster, knt., and was father of the notorious Judge Jefferys.

his coming down I went to him he protested he satisfied the offic^{wth} half the fee, and more he would not give to me then half of that which belonged to me I would rather haue spent x^{li} then sutch a presedent should haue beene for you know not what hurt you haue doon therin, Thus desyring to heere speedily from you that the money may be gotten out of Smedles hands I ever rest yo^r wor^{pp}s

RANDALL HOLME.

Chester 22 of Septemb. 1623.

To the Right Wor^{ll} S^r Richard St george Knight King of Armes these.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Right wor^{ll}

I writt vnto you 2 moneths agoe by my sonne Witm who is yet in London vnder the hands of phisitions he dayely expected helpe that he might have brought you the letter himself the which I doubt you haue not yet receaued be reasone he is very weake, and not able to goe abrode therefore I haue sent vp my other sonne the bearer heerof of whom you shall receaue the fee and certificat of Robt Dokenfield of Dokenfield Esq^r ²⁷ and the fee for Laurance Smyth Esq^r ²⁸ which wth mutch adoe I haue gotten, the Certificat for Smyth you had the last Returns and my sonn tould it was entred I pray see it be soe also you shall receave the Certificat for John Jeffreys Esq^r I doubt not but you haue receaved that fee of S^r Thomas Ireland as he promessed you the last terme, for M^{rs} Brooks²⁹ fee I haue been so dalyed wthall that it made me almost weary, for after many jeyrnes and fayr promesses as s^{om}tyme she would paye it, then desyred tyme afterwards said if S^r Thomas Ireland payd not, she hope to be freed as well as he, after the receat of your letter whearin you writt of S^r Thomas

²⁷ Robert, son and heir of Robert Dukenfield of Dukenfield, in the county of Chester, esq., by his wife Ellen, daughter of sir William Brereton of Brereton, knt., died 31 December 1624. He was twice married, and had issue by his first wife, Jane, daughter and coheirress of Richard Holland of Denton and Heaton, esq., twelve children; and by his second wife, Margery, daughter of Edward Holland of Heaton, esq., three sons.

²⁸ Lawrence, son of sir Thomas Smith of Hough and Hatherton, in the county of Chester, knt., by his wife Ann, daughter of sir William Brereton of Brereton, knt. He married Ann, daughter of sir Randle Mainwaring of Over Pevor, knt., and was succeeded by his son, sir Thomas Smith, knt., one of whose twenty-two children, Thomas Smith of Hatherton, was created a baronet in the year 1660.

²⁹ Thomas Brooke of Norton Priory, in the county of Chester, esq., died in the year 1622, leaving his third wife Eleanor, daughter of — Gerard, esq., his widow, and sir Richard Brooke, knt., his son and heir, who died in 1632, and whose son, Henry Brooke, was created a baronet in 1662.

Irelands consent to paye, then I sent ageane made her acquainted therwth, but then she had prepared a new trick for me, and sent me word that she thought she was not to paye it, and absolutely denied payment saying that her husbands personall estate at the tyme of his decease was not ouⁿ 300^{li} and his lands was vnder 300^{li} a year, and so the petityon should be freed. Therupon I writt to S^r Richard Brook made him acquainted with his mother in laws³⁰ dealings vsed all the perswatyons and reasons I could, that ether he would cause his mother in law to give me content or that him self would paye it considering it was for the benefite of his posterityte to haue the certificat Inrowled in his maiestes offic of Armes, for the one of them must needs paye it, ells I must returne their contempt and contesting against the order, the which I was verely vnwilling to doe, knowing what troble and chardg the would bring themselves vnto, and in the end be forsed to paye, S^r Richard sent me an answeare which gaue me good content, that he was verely sorry his mother had put to so great toyle and Chardges in sending so often, and said rather then the offic should be vnsatisfied he would paye it out of his own purse, and at my sonnes comeing downe from London some course should be taken to paye it, only desyred your advise and assistance if occ . . . serued, he paying it, how he might gett it from his mother ageane, so I shall haue but litle troble more about this matter, a year agoe I writt vnto you concerning S^r Willm Hanmer of ffens in the County of flynt he dyed 2 years agoe which fee was promessed to be payd me by his boysterus vnthriftie heyer Willm Hanmer, who a weeke before the day of payment vpon a surfett dyed at Creet in Salop being his wifes joynter house ther I sent and found all his goods seased vpon for ffens and other lands was enfeffed vpon frends in trust to pay S^r Willms debts and portyons for his yonger sonnes and daughters, this Willm dyed wthout issue so the inheritance fell to Thomas Hanmer his seacond brother, this matter being so desperate and almost past hope yet I made

³⁰ Stepmother.

meanes by Mr. Phillip Ouldfeld³¹ a honest gent my verey good friend being one of the feffies that I got Thomas then heyer to promesse to paye it, altho by a litle at a tyme as others weer payd some I haue receaued and in good hop to haue the rest, before it be longe, aganst the next returne, for I am verey loth to send vp to you pees males³² of a fee, I receaved a letter from the offic concerning Smedley dated the 7th of May, not vntill the xviiith of the same, wthin 3 dayes after I roed into Lancashire to Manchester beeing xxx myles from Chester when I came ther I send for one Massy and Marshall booth paynters and men of indifferent good fatyour, I asked them how Smedley behaued him self amonge them and the gentry, the said reasonable well, I asked them why could not he gett in the fees due to the office of Armes, the said some he had which was partly by their meanes and likewise said be reason he was stranger in the country wanting acquaintance and light in the purse made him litle respected also another reasone, ther be 2 or 3 poor snaks hedge paynters, and I take it plasterers tow which when the heer of any of acoũt to be dead the rune ther, and make escochens and hachments to put in the Church, for funeralls now adayes is almost layd away (this paltrey burning in the night spoyleth all) gent seeing these running paynters working at libertey and not supprest, thinke they may as well stand out for paying fees, when I had gotten [what] I could of them I sent for Mr. Smedley to my lodgings tould him of you^r discontents towards me, I beeing the meanes in procuring for him his deputation, he proving so negligent carelesse and so dishonest in exe-

³¹ Philip Ouldfeld, of Bradwall, in the county of Chester, and of Gray's Inn, esq., died at Chester December 15 1616, aged 75 according to his monument in St. Mary's Church. He married twice, and by his second wife Ellen, daughter of William Hanmer of Fenns, esq., and widow of John Griffith, serjeant-at-law, was father of the gentleman here named, afterwards sir Philip Ouldfeld, knt. Sir Philip was a second son, and married in the year 1600, Mary, daughter and heiress of John Somerford of Somerford, esq., and died about the year 1626. (*Ormerod*, vol. iii. p. 33.)

³² Piece meal.

cutting the same, made him acquainted [with] what you writt to me, and willed him to give me an accompt for the tyme past and told him that altho his vn honest mynd could dispençe wth his concyence to keep the fees receaued and not to bring them to the offic how durst he doe it be reason of his bond, he tould me he payd into the offic xv^{li} which was for S^r Edmund Trafford S^r Alexander Barlow and Mr. howsley wth their certificats, I asked for his acquittance vpon the payement but he had none, I tould him that if any weer payd the desents would be found entred in the offic, and said he had no money in his hands but Mr. Heskett, I demaunded the same that I might returne it now by my sonne wth other fees I was to send vp, the which he said he could not possibly now doe, but hath promessed me at mydsomer to vse the best meanes he can to pay it which if he doe as I think he will I will speedily send it vp I asked him the reason why he could not get in the fees, he tould me neer to the effect of the 2 paynters I took vp his deputatyon which is now in my hands and willed him to write his mynd to you the which I haue sent heerwth, if it please you to give him his deputatyon ageane it shall vpon notise from you be donn, If not rather then I will see the office of Armes which I wth due respect honor to be thus wronged, if it please you to make a deputatyon of that County to me, I will see what I can do, I doubt not but wth a litle of your assistance I shall bring the Countrey to a better conformety wth good profitt to the office, onely I must entreat you to procure a warrant from the earle marshall for Pallitt and Renshaw: for the do most harm and ether somebody must be terified or ells no good will be done, it is lykely beeing served to appear the will rather enter into bond never to make any mor funerall works, for these vnskilfull fellows comytt many grose errors which in tyme will do mutch harme, if the be countenased by any gent. as few sutch but some backs the haue,³³ it weer not amysse altho the be poor to

³³ "Few sutch but some backs they haue:" *i.e.*, there are few such without friends or patrons.

feelee some punishment of the marshallsey,³⁴ lett them fall to their ordinary paynting and plastering, and not to medle wth Armes. Lancashire is a great County neer twice so big as Cheshire and most of the best know me, or at the least the haue hard of me, I mean to aply³⁵ Smedley in our part and others in other parts, and will be redy at all tymes as occatyon shall serve to back them, I hope to make it better for Smedley then now it is for I pittie his poverty and I think he will deal honesly the which if he do not I will soone fynd him out, I am willing to take paynes in this matter altho to me ther can rise litle or no profitt be reason that if Lancashire be not reformed it will infect Cheshire as lately it begane which danger I would fayn p^rvent, I goeing to take certificats and to demand the fee the brought me in p^rsedents of some in Lanc. that stood out and yet weer not forsed to pay, but I trust these matters shall be better looked vnto The fee for S^r Richard Molineux knight and baronet is not yett payd I went to demand it but S^r Richard was gone to London whear I take it he now is one of his gent tould me that if it weer not payd now at London into the offic, at S^r Richards comeing home I should haue notise to come ou^r and take the Certificat and fee, Therfor send me word whether he hath payd which if he haue it will saue me a joyrney into Lancashire, Thus wth my humble duty to you^r Wor^{pp}s remembréd I ever rest you^{rs} in the best service I can
Chester May. 25.

RANDALL HOLME.

yett one thing more I must request that you wilbe pleased to procure a warrant for on[e] Robt. freere he inhabitts in Chester a Coblers sonne, but goes abrode and makes Armes whereof some of the I haue gotten false anuff, and also I hear he is a contryvor of pedegrees, it weer good he weer nipt before hes graft or ells he may prove dangeress, I doubt not but if I had the wa^rrant to serve

³⁴ Prison.

³⁵ Employ.

him, he would enter into bound not ever after to medl wth this element.

To the Right Wor^{ll} S^r Richard S^t georg knight norrey king of Armes.³⁶ these give

³⁶ For a biographical notice of sir Richard st. George, kn^t., see the Introduction to the *Heraldic Visitation of Lancashire* in the year 1613, pp. xii—xiv., Chetham series. He died 17 May 1635.

The Knight's bones are dust
And his good sword rust,
His soul is with the saints, I trust.

Coleridge.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Chester the 2 Aprell, 1632.

Right worth

After my loue and seruice to you tendered, theis are to certifie you that agayne I may be recertified of your resolutions consideringe the fee of my lord Viscount Killmorrey³⁷ to whom shortly after his fathers death I did resort to demant the fee for the registring of his descent who^s answare was to take deliberation a while consarning the same, in which season he sliped to london and at his returne I did solícite him agayn about it for nothing eles he is mynded to doe no not so much as a playne hearse or escution to put in the church for his father at all, he then tould me how Mr. Somerset³⁸ had byn wth him consarning the same and also his resolute answare to him that he saw no reason for payment at all thereof, neither would pay any, only as a gratuety. If you pleased to accept of it he would give you x^{li} otherwise non at all, get it how you can, w^{ch} obstinacy of his causeth me to write to know your pleasures herin ere my coming vp w^{ch} will be shortly wthin this 3 weeks therefore I pray you send

³⁷ The father of Lord Kilmorye was Robert Nedham, esq., of Shaventon or Shenton Hall, in the county of Salop, sheriff of the county 6, 28 and 37 Elizabeth, and who married Frances, daughter of sir Edward Aston of Tixall, in the county of Stafford, knt. Elinour, sole daughter and heiress of Thomas Dutton of Dutton, esq., in the county of Chester, married first, in 1607, sir Gilbert Gerard, son and heir of Thomas lord Gerard. After his death, in 1622, lady Gerard married sir Robert Nedham of Shenton, knt., sheriff of Salop in 1606, who died in 1653, created viscount Kilmorye, 18 April 1625, being succeeded by his son Charles, viscount Kilmorye (see sir Peter Leycester's *History*, p. 259), whose descendant and representative was created earl of Kilmorye 12 January 1822, all in the peerage of Ireland.

³⁸ Mr. John Philipott appointed Somerset Herald about 1624, greatly trusted by Camden and sir Richard st. George as their deputy or marshal in the visitations, died in 1645. (See Noble's *History of the College of Arms*, p. 245.)

me a speedy answare herof whither I shall take it or no of him for I have pmissid him an answare ere my coming vp to be returned from you yf you knew his nature so well as I you would not refuse it rather then haue nothing at all and if this be not taken while he is in his humor non can preuayleth him if he onst gaynsay it as also the foule psident that will run shortly ouer all our cuntrey and neuer looke hereafter to haue any out of theis pts if he pay nothing and so sleight it off thus I must confesse it were in respect of psident, better to haue nothing at all but get a better psident althoge but a small psent of sauor, then noc smell at all. Consider of it the matter lyeth on bleeding all this season & I doubt if you take not this profered mite the temple of his harte will shortly close her dores of all beneuolence thus onst more desiring speedy answare I comitt you to the guiding of the all guiding pseruer & rest your worships louing frend to comand.

RANDLE HOLME, Jun.

To the Right wor^{ll} & wor^{ll} the kinges and hearalds of
Armes this be delivered wth speed.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

To the Right wor^{ll} the kings of Armes the wor^{ll} hearalds and to the rest of the offic of Armes.

Whereas I haue receaued vpon the xxviiith of this p^rsent November 2 seuerall letters dated the xixth of the same the on from S^r Richard St George kt Norroy the other from M^r Henry St Georg Richmond in the which it seemeth I am taxed for solemnizing the funerall of Baronet fitton³⁹ and also in takeing a fee of x peeses in the name of the offic, and for apparant proof therof, the lady of the saide defunct, being now in Londone doth aver the same, I deny them both, first ther was no funerall solomnized, nether any fee for the offic by me or any for me ether demāded nor receaued. But the trewth is, I beeing in London in May last at which tyme Baronett fitton dyed, my sonne the bearer heerof hearing the body was buried obscurly and that ther would be no funerall, and further hearing that some Country paynters should make his achieffments to put vp in the Church, he repayred thether, and had speech wth the said lady concerning the same, she offring x^{li} for the workeing of the said achieffments, my sonne tould her that would not pay for the stuff, and for that tyme

³⁹ Sir Edward Fitton of Gawsworth, in the county of Chester, born 3 December 1572, son and heir of sir Edward Fitton, knt. Lord President of Munster, by his wife Alice, daughter and sole heiress of John Holcroft of Holcroft, in the county of Lancaster, esq. He succeeded his father in the year 1606, and was created a Baronet in the year 1617. He married Ann, daughter and coheiress of James Barrett of Tenby, in the county of Pembroke, whose will is dated 31 January 1643-4. (*Lanc. and Chesh. Wills*, vol. iii, p. 190.) Dying on the 6 May 1619, sir Edward was succeeded by his only son sir Edward Fitton, who died without surviving issue by either of his wives in August 1643, when the baronetcy became extinct. Armes of Fitton of Gawsworth, argent on a bend azure three garbs or. Over the door of the old hall are the family arms with sixteen quarterings sculptured in 1570 with the motto in a garter—"Fit onus leve."

broke of wthout any agreement, then afterwards one of her men came and wished him to take that which she offred or ells she would send for some paynter to her howse and ther worke them as her father in llawes S^r Edward fittons were, and it would not lye her in past viii^{li} my sonne tould them he would not worke for nothing and so left them, about a week after I came from London on of the ladys men came to Chester and tould me in the heering of this bearer, that if I would not take a xii^{li}, being xx^s more then was offred before, some others should do them, I seeing her resolutyone, was content to doe them, altho I gott nothing by them, rather then any Country paynter should worke them in her howse, which would be a fowle presedent, hoping some course will be taken to p^rvent sutch fellows, the worke being done I sent this bearer wth them to the lady, she vewed them and caused them to be put vp in the Church, and gave him then just x p^eeces for the same as was agreed vpon. Now vnderstanding that the ladye is in Londone I haue sent my sonne this bearer purposly altho it be a foule wynters joyrney and chardgable to me, that he may justify this vpon his oth if ocatyone require

Also I am chardged that I cannot be ignorant of the order of the Comysioners for the offic of Earle marshall and also that I haue a Coppy therof.

It is trewe I knowe that ther is sutch an order it was red vnto me by M^r Henry St George in the p^rsence of S^r Richard his father, who did not onely promesse me a Coppy therof but also to be a meanes to the offic to graunt me a deputatyone I giveing my bound for performanc therof as other deputat did, S^r Wiffm Segar⁴⁰ S^r Richard St georg and some others in the offic hath knowne me to be an antyent practytioner of Armory and was sworne servant to the princ. I haue labored heere to mantayne the honor of the offic of Armes & for their profit as it is well.

⁴⁰ Sir William Segar, knighted in 1616, appointed Somerset Herald 1588-9, norroy 1593, garter 1603. He died in 1633, and was buried in the chancel of Richmond church in Surrey. In 1602 he published in folio his "Honor, Civil and Military," and left behind him voluminous and accurate genealogies.

knowne among our gentry in these parts I trust none can justly chardg me but that I haue delt honestly carefully and trewly, in every thinge whearin I haue beene employed

But nowe to answer the last obietyons that is that I had a Coppy of the order, beleue me I had none as yett, I tould S^r Richard and M^r Henry St georg of the obscur buryall of S^r Thomas Hanmer⁴¹ who dyed sithens the order was made, I desyred them to haue order from the offic that I might enter the descent and call for the fee due to the offic who promessed me that I should haue derectyon p^rsently sent me from the offic but non came, in July last I spake wth S^r Richard in Cambridgshire and tould him I lost tyme bereason I had not authorytei from the offic to call for the fees, and if I mistake not my self I tould him of the obscure buryall of Baronet fitton, he promessed me p^rsently after he came to Londone I should hau derectyon from the offic, I writt to S^r Richard in the begining of October of the obscure buriall of Richard Grosvenor of Eaton⁴² neer Chester Esq^r. that I could not enter the descent nor call for

⁴¹ Sir Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer, M.P. for the county of Flint, was honoured with knighthood at Whitehall 23 July 1603 previous to the King's coronation. He married, first, Lady Anne Talbot, daughter of John earl of Shrewsbury, by whom he had an only daughter, who died an infant. Sir Thomas married, secondly, Catherine, daughter of sir Thomas Mostyn, knt., and by that lady had John, his heir, created a baronet 8 July 1620. Sir Thomas Hanmer died 18 April 1619. The title expired in 1746 on the death of sir Thomas Hanmer, M.P., the fourth baronet, who had been distinguished in the literary and political world, having published in 1744 a fine edition of Shakspeare's plays, and having been elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 1712. Dr. Johnson refers to him in the following couplet :

Illustrious age ! how bright thy glories shone
When Hanmer fill'd the chair, and Anne the throne.

Sir John Hanmer, the third baronet of the creation of 1774, was created baron Hanmer of Hanmer in the peerage of Great Britain in 1872.

⁴² Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, esq., high sheriff of Cheshire in 1602, married Christian, daughter of sir Richard Brooke of Norton Priory, knt., and dying in 1619 was succeeded by his son, sir Richard, created a baronet 23 February 1621-2, being the fourteenth in descent from Gilbert le Grosvenor, the companion in arms of William the Conqueror.

the fee vntill I had derectyon from them for altho I hard the order Red, I doe not remember how mutch the fees weer which ought to be payd, If I did knowe what the fees weer, howe can I call for them haueing no authoryte, the which if I had had I would not onely haue called to the lady fitton but to the rest, Ther is now lately dead and buryed obscurely Raff Egerton of Ridley⁴³ in the County of Chester Esq^r, he dyed at Stoke in the County of Salop and was buryed at Bunbury in the County of Chester amongst his ancesters The deputy for the offic of Armes for Salop sent to demaund the fee be reason he dyed in that County, it was denyed to be payd vnto him till S^r Richard Egerton the defuncts heyer had spoken wth me, S^r Richard came to Chester 4 dayes before the date heerof and tould me that if any such fee weer due, he would rather paye it in Cheshire and to haue the descent entread in the Cheshire book, and not in a book of a forren County I tould him ther was a fee due to the offic of Armes by an order sett downe by the Commissyners for the offic of Earle marshall of England vnder their hands and seales by expresse comāund from his mat^{ie} I desyr to be resolved in which County it shall be entred, for wthout you^r derectyons I cannot answear him, I tould him I expected a deputatyon from you wth order to receave the fees for you and to enter the descent of the defunct, the which I desyr by this bearer my sonne I may haue, and if it please you^r wor^{pp}s to take his bond wth some other of my frends wth him, till my comeing vp in Ester terme, then I will enter into bonds my self for performance of those matters you put me in trust, I hope so to behaue my self in the p^rmesses which will be

⁴³ Ralph, son of sir Richard Egerton of Ridley, knt., by his wife Mary, daughter of Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, esq., died 17 November 1619. He was twice married. By his first wife, Barbara Holford, he had sir Richard Egerton, his heir, whose son Richard was aged 16 in 1619, and by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Warburton of Arley, esq., he had Peter Egerton of Shawe, in the county of Lancaster, aged 27 in 1619. Sir Thomas Egerton, the lord chancellor Ellesmere, was the illegitimate brother of Ralph Egerton, named in the text.

to all you^r Contents, Thus craveing pardon for so tedious a letter,
I ever rest you^r wor^{pp}s in my best servisses

RANDALL HOLME.

Chester^r the last daye
of November.

Indorsed—A letter from Randall Holme to the office of Armes.

